

If the Savior Stood Beside Me

Week 1 (16 minutes total)

You will need:

- * 2 pictures of the Savior
- * 4 pieces of paper, all the same color, that have a large question mark on one side. On the opposite side write one of the keywords on each paper. Keywords are: do, think, follow, live.
- * 4 pieces of paper with a single large number written on each of them. They should be numbered 1-4.
- * Magnets/tape
- * You will need to make up or know the sign language for the 4 keywords (do, think, follow, live). For the sign language you can go to aslpro.com and look up individual words.
- * Optional: pictures of a friend, mom or dad and the Savior

For your opening song in Primary sing “Choose the Right”

Introduce the song (2 min)

1. Our opening song was “Choose the Right”. Is it hard to always choose the right? Do you think it would be easier to choose the right if you had someone standing next to you each time you made a decision? (you can hold up pictures for the next questions if you want)

What if your best friend was standing next to you?

What if the Primary President was standing next to you?

How about your mom or dad?

What if Jesus was standing next to you? Would it be easier to always choose the right?

We are going to learn a song called, “If the Savior Stood Beside Me”

2. Directive Listening (7 min)

Ask the children to count the number of times you sing about the Savior standing beside you. (Do the actions for the keywords as you sing). Sing the 1st verse and get their answers (2 times).

Point out that the first time you sang it was at the beginning of the song and the 2nd time you sang it was at the end of the song. Put a picture of the Savior at the far left side of the chalkboard and a picture of the Savior at the far right side of the chalkboard.

Tell them that in between these two pictures the song asks us questions. Each question starts with “would I”. Ask them to listen for how many times you sing “would I”. Sing the verse and get their answers (4 times).

Post on chalkboard in between the pictures of Jesus 4 papers that have one large question mark on each of them.

There are 4 questions between the two times we talk about the Savior standing next to us. Divide the children into 4 groups (could be 4 rows or by classes). Give each group a piece of cardstock that has a number on it. The papers should be numbered 1,2,3 & 4.

Tell them each group is to listen for whichever question number they have. For example, the group with the #1 paper should listen for the first question you sing; the group with the #2 paper should listen for the second question you sing, etc.

Sing the song, doing the actions for the keywords as you sing the first verse. Ask them for their answers. If they can't remember the question, then sing the verse again. (For Jr. you may need to hold up your fingers 1-4 as you sing each question). As they tell you their correct answers, you can turn over the question marks on the board. Behind each question mark should be the keyword for that question. Keywords are (do, think, try, live).

Have everyone sing the first verse together and do the actions for the keywords.

3. Practice the Verse (7 min)

To practice the first verse, have everyone sing together the phrases about the Savior standing beside them, (If the Savior stood beside me . . . if I could see the Savior standing nigh watching over me)but then each group only sings the question that corresponds with their number. After you sing it through once, then take the numbered papers and hand them out to different groups so that the kids will be singing a different question this time. Sing again and repeat until all groups have sung the 4 different questions.

Week 2 (14-18 total minutes)

You will need:

- * Pictures of Christ, 4 question mark papers and 4 numbered papers from last week.
- * A question mark printed on a different colored paper
- * A different colored paper with a large "2" printed on it.
- * Make up or look up actions for keywords in vs 2. Keywords are: say, words, try, speak

Note on keywords: You might consider for "say" just putting your finger to your mouth. Then on "words" put 2 fingers at your mouth then as you finish that phrase (would my words be TRUE and KIND if he were never far away) take those two fingers and hold them out in front of you and hold up 1 finger while you sing TRUE and then hold up the 2nd finger while you sing KIND. For "would I speak more reverently" you could point to your mouth again for speak, then fold your arms like you're praying for "reverently".

1. Review the first verse (2 -4 minutes)

Ask the children if they remember the first phrase of the song "If the Savior stood beside me". Get their answer and put the first picture of Christ on the board. Ask the kids when else do we sing about him standing next to us. Get their answer. Post the other picture of Jesus on the other side of the blackboard.

Ask them how many questions are in between the pictures? (4). Post 4 question marks.

Sing through 1-2 times, using actions for keywords.

2. Introduce vs2/Directive listening (5 minutes)

Tell the children the 2nd verse starts and ends the same as the first verse. It also has 4 questions in between the pictures. Ask “what did all 4 questions in the first verse start with?” (Would I). In the 2nd verse one of the questions starts with a different phrase. Tell them you are going to sing the 2nd verse and they are to listen for the question that starts with different words. When they hear it they should raise their hands (or pat their head or pull on their ear -- little things like changing what they should do when they hear the answer helps keep them engaged and actively listening). Get their answers (Would my).

Sing again and this time they are to listen for which question starts differently. Is it question 1,2,3 or 4. They should _____ (blink their eyes, tap their knees, plug their nose) when they know which question number it is.

After you get their answer (question 2), replace that question mark on the board with the one that is the different color.

Have everyone sing the 2nd verse all together, doing the actions for the keywords.

3. Practice the song (7 min)

Handout the number signs from last week, but make sign #2 a different color. Whichever class/group has sign #2 has to sing their question in a different way (This can be whatever you want – staccato, opera style, soft, say the words, etc). Have everyone sing the beginning and ending phrase and then just sing the question that corresponds with their number. Rotate number signs around until each group has had each number.

You could change the way group #2 has to sing it each time. Or have the kids in group #2 pick a way from slips of paper you prepared ahead of time, draw out of a bag, etc.

Week 3 (JR: 9-13 total minutes, SR: 15-19 total minutes)

1. Review verse 1-2 (3 minutes)

Sing both verses using actions. Post pictures if necessary, but the kids probably don't need them at this point.

JUNIOR

You will need:

* For each child prepare a small piece of cardstock that has a picture of the Savior on one side and the other side should be a picture of a child. You could put the pictures on 2 separate papers and then glue them together with a popsicle stick in between them. Or you could just print them back to back and then glue a popsicle stick to the side with the picture of a child. You could print a picture of a girl and a boy on the child side and glue the popsicle stick in between them. Or, you could print a picture of the Savior on one side, glue the popsicle stick on and let the kids at the beginning of singing time draw a picture of themselves on the other side. If you do this just make sure that they write their names (or a teacher does) at the bottom of their picture so you can hand them out to the correct child next week.

2. Introduce song (1 minute)

Tell the children the third verse is a special verse. It's not the same as the other 2 verses. The first part of the verse talks about how Jesus is always near us even though we *can't* see him. Then the last part of the verse says I'll be the kind of person that I know I'd like to be *if I could see* the Savior standing next to me. Remind them how each of us would probably act a lot better if Jesus was always standing right next to us.

3. Practice the verse (5-9 minutes, depending on how many times you sing it)

Pass out your props. Then sing the song using the props. Sing it through a few times, they will catch on after a few times. Always remember the children need to hear the song a few times before we should ever expect them to sing it with us—especially with Junior. Just sing it for them, enjoy their sweet spirits, and they will join in as soon as they can.

To sing the song with props:

Phrase	Prop
He is always near me	Hold picture of Jesus in front of you
Though I do not see him there	Put picture behind your back
And because He loves me dearly	Hold picture at your heart
I am in His watchful care	Hold picture at chest with 2 hands, like you're hugging the picture
So I'll be the kind of person	Flip prop to the picture of child
That I know I'd like to be	Raise picture up into air as the notes go up on "know I'd like to be" (like they are growing up and getting bigger)
If I could see the Savior standing nigh	Flip picture, bringing slowly down in front of you
Watching over me	move picture slowly back up in the air, one note at a time. (Watch – ing --- o---ver---me) This will help the children remember that the ending is different.

SENIOR

You will need:

- * chalk & eraser and magnets
- * On strips of construction paper write the following words: He, Him, He, His, I'll, I, I'd, I. There should be one word on each strip.
- * Before Sr starts, write on the board the words of the 3rd verse. Leave blanks for the words that have wordstrips. Use magnets to put your wordstrips at the bottom or side of the chalkboard in RANDOM ORDER. It should look like:

_____ is always near me, though I do not see _____ there, and because _____ loves me dearly, I am in _____ watchful care. So _____ be the kind of person that _____ know _____ like to be if _____ could see the Savior standing nigh,

Watch-----ing-----o-----ver me-----.

For the ending, I would draw lines after the words so when you are singing it you can run your finger along the line to help them remember you are going to hold those notes out.

2. Introduce 3rd verse (1 minute) - same as Junior introduction

3. Listening activity (5 minutes)

Show the kids the chalkboard and wordstrips. Tell the children you will sing the 3rd verse and they are to listen and figure out which wordstrips go in which blanks. Sing the verse. Ask for a volunteer to fill in the first blank, 2nd blank, etc. After they are all done, everyone sings together to check if all the wordstrips are correct. Make any corrections as needed. (If you are concerned about reverence during this part, tell the children to sit quietly and you will tap reverent children on the shoulder to go and put a wordstrip in a blank. Tell them they must quickly and quietly choose a wordstrip. Give them a 1 minute time limit for putting all the wordstrips up. Then go right into singing it to check and see if the wordstrips are correct. Don't give them any time to yell about which one is right or wrong. Just start singing as soon as the last one is put in place.)

4. Practice the verse (6-10 minutes)

Give your eraser to a child and have them erase a few of the words (tell them to not erase the ending or remove the wordstrips). Sing the verse again. Ask for another volunteer and have them erase a few more words. Repeat until all you have left are the wordstrips and the ending. Challenge them to close their eyes and sing the whole 3rd verse.

Week 4 (20 minutes)

You will need:

* "My Joy is Full" video. You can download this from YouTube or just get it at your church library. It is video item #53911 (VHS) or 04395 (DVD).

* Prepare two sets of cards, each set is a different color. One set should have the name of a Primary song on it. The other set should have a way to sing the song. The primary songs should coordinate with your keywords from verses 1-2. Possible songs could be:

Keyword	Song
Do	Do as I'm Doing, Stand for the right, Jesus said love everyone
Think	Keep the commandments, Nephi's courage vs3
Follow	Follow the Prophet,
Live	Keep the commandments, I will be valiant, The Church of Jesus Christ, Jesus wants me for a Sunbeam
Say	I'm trying to be like Jesus, Hum your favorite hymn
Words	I'll walk with you

Try	I hope they call me on a mission, I want to be a missionary now, Called to Serve
Speak Reverently	Reverence is Love

Possible ways to sing could be: stand on one leg; tap the rhythm of the song on their chairs, clap, stand on chair and sing, tap your toes, sing soft, flashlight (when the flashlight is on they sing the words, when it's off they sing the words in their head)

1. Review verses 1-3 (3 minutes) or just sing it for your opening song in Primary.
2. Activity (full time OR if you do the video activity at the end, you will need to leave 5 minutes for that. If you choose to do the video you probably won't get through 8 songs.)

Choose 2 reverent children to come up front and pick a card from each stack. Then sing the song in the style indicated. After you sing the song, ask if they can guess which of the keywords from verses 1-2 the song goes with. (Some of these could obviously go with more than one keyword.) See if the children can repeat the phrase with that keyword in it. Then pick two more super singers to come up front to pick two more cards. Repeat.

3. Video activity (5 minutes)

Show the video "My Joy is Full". Turn the volume all the way down. When the begins, your piano player should start playing the introduction to the song. Have the kids sing all 3 verses of the song while watching the video. After the 3rd verse, have your pianist go back to the introduction and then have the kids sing the 3rd verse again QUIETLY or just hum the 3rd verse again. This goes great with the beautiful video. You will want to practice this a few times by yourself to make sure the timing matches up fairly well. Just as long as you aren't hurrying through the song you should end at the same time. Just take a nice, even pace.

Share your testimony of the Savior's love for each one of them.

Other ideas:

1. You might consider giving the children a challenge each week that relates to the verse they learned. Verse 1: Throughout this week think about the Savior standing next to you. See if it helps you make better choices. When you come back next week, I'll ask if anyone wants to share how remembering the Savior standing next to you helped you DO something better. Verse 2: Same challenge as week 1, but focus on what they SAY. Verse 3: During the week, look for ways that the Savior loves you and is watching out for you. Have them share examples/how they felt when they come back on week 4. You could ask for volunteers after you give out the assignment that would be willing to share an experience the following week. Give the child a call on Saturday just to remind them about sharing an experience on Sunday.
2. On week 3, you could hand out a penny to each child and adult in Primary and tell them to put it in their shoe every day and each time they feel it they should remember that Christ is there with them even though we can't see Him. When they come back the next week tell them you'd like to hear if this helped them make better choices. Remember to do this YOURSELF and be ready to share an example!
3. Verse 3 is a great verse to practice dynamics (loud and soft). You could sing the beginning quietly and maybe even slow it down a little. Then when you get to the "I" part start to gradually sing louder and stronger. Like you are making a commitment to the Lord.